**REMARKS**

Claims 3, 4 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice.

New claim 17 finds support at page 20, lines 14-18; claim 18 finds support by reference to Examples 18-22; claim 19 finds support by reference to claim 4 as originally filed; claim 20 finds support at page 18, lines 31-34 of the specification; and claim 21 finds support at page 19, lines 3-10 of the specification.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 3, 4 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-114884 (JP '884). Applicants respond as follows.

The electric wire insulating material of claim 17 is obtained by insulating molding of a fluororesin having the claimed critical shear rate and PAVE content. Specifically, the fluororesin comprises a tetrafluoroethylene /perfluoro (alkyl vinyl ether) copolymer and has a perfluoro (alkyl vinyl ether) unit content of 2.5 to 4.0 mole percent relative to all monomer units. Therefore, the insulating material has surface smoothness and mechanical strength, even when forming an insulating material having a thin wall thickness at high insulating speed. (Page 18, lines 3-18 of the specification.)

Although JP '884 mentions an electric insulating film ([0020]), JP '884 does not disclose an electric wire insulating material.

JP '884 discloses a copolymer having a 2 mol% PPVE unit content ([0024]) and "when too large, the tendency for the mechanical property of the moldings of a fluororesin constituent to fall is shown" ([0007]). Therefore, based on JP '884, one of ordinary skill would not reasonably select a fluororesin having a PAVE content of at least 2.5 mol%, as claimed in claim 17, for obtaining an electric wire insulating material of good mechanical strength.

U.S. Patent 5,760,151 to Aten et al teaches the benefit to MIT Flex Life of an increased PAVE content. On the other hand, JP '884 teaches "when too large, the tendency for the mechanical property of the moldings of a fluororesin constituent to fall is shown" ([0007]). Therefore, JP '884 teaches away from increasing the PAVE content.

Furthermore, JP '884 discloses a composition containing a TFE/PAVE copolymer and a TFE/Pr fluororubber. There is no apparent reason which would lead one of ordinary skill to employ a TFE/PAVE copolymer alone to obtain the insulating material.

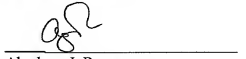
For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17-21 are patentable over JP '884 and the prior art of record, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 17-21 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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